

Message Text

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ORIGIN FSI-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU

SUBJECT: FSI'S ARABIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

1. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES, DEPARTMENT HAS CONCLUDED FSI ARABIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL SHOULD BE SET UP IN TUNIS ON PERMANENT BASIS. FISCAL AND RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES WILL BE COVERED SEPARATELY.

2. PURPOSE THIS MESSAGE IS TO REQUEST YOU TO SEEK GOT APPROVAL. WE LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DECIDE NATURE AND TIMING OF YOUR APPROACH. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO GOT IN MANNER YOU CONSIDER MOST SUITABLE:

(A) RELATION TO EMBASSY: SCHOOL WILL, AS IN PAST, BE
CONSIDERED INTEGRAL PART OF EMBASSY, WITH BOTH DIRECTOR
AND U.S. CITIZEN STUDENTS BEING CONSIDERED MEMBERS OF
AMBASSADOR'S OFFICIAL
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ENTOURAGE FOR PURPOSES DIPLOMATIC
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

(B) SIZE: AS GENERAL RULE, WE FORESEE MAXIMUM OF TWENTY STUDENTS AT SCHOOL AT ANY ONE TIME, BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SOMEWHAT EXCEEDING THIS IF NUMBER OF APPLICANTS OR OTHER FACTORS IN GIVEN YEAR MADE THIS

DESIRABLE. COMPLEMENT OF SCHOOL WOULD BE ENTIRELY USG PERSONNEL WITH POSSIBLE OCCASIONAL OTHER ALLIED NATIONAL, SUCH AS AUSTRALIAN PRESENTLY AT SCHOOL. (FYI: WE HAVE AN INDICATION AT PRESENT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. END FYI)

(C) WE FORESEE EMPLOYING TWO INSTRUCTORS FROM LEBANON OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY SPEAKING EASTERN ARABIC DIALECTS, SINCE MAJORITY OF ARABISTS GRADUATING FROM SCHOOL WILL BE ASSIGNED TO ARAB STATES EAST OF TUNISIA. ALL OTHER INSTRUCTORS WILL NORMALLY BE TUNISIAN NATIONALS. WE WOULD LIKE GOT CONCURRENCE, HOWEVER, TO PRINCIPLE OF FLEXIBILITY IN TEACHER HIRING SO THAT SCHOOL CAN HIRE MOST QUALIFIED TALENT AVAILABLE AND MAINTAIN INSTRUCTION IN DIALECTS THAT WILL BEST SERVE ASSIGNMENT NEEDS. WE SEEK GOT ASSURANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING ENTRY OR WORK PERMITS FOR NON-TUNISIAN TEACHERS SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO NORMAL TUNISIAN ENTRY/RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONSULTING WASHINGTON PRIOR TO MAKING ANY APPROACH TO GOT IF YOU SEE ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS.

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Message Attributes

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